

mon, and *Ortygornis ponticeriana* occurs; for I saw one in a cage in the camp of the 5th Punjab Native Infantry.

(873) *RHYNCHÆA CAPENSIS* (Linn.).

Captain Cook, V.C. of the 5th Goorkhas, informed me that he had shot a Painted Snipe in the month of January near Kurrum.

(893) *TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS* (Linn.).

A few pairs were about the river in May.

IV.—*Notes upon some West-Indian Birds.*

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

(Plate I.)

MR. LAWRENCE'S series of papers upon the birds obtained for the Smithsonian collection by Mr. F. A. Ober during his visits to the islands of Barbuda, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Vincent, and Grenada*, have greatly added to our acquaintance with the avifauna of the Lesser Antilles. I have on previous occasions† lamented the deficiency of our knowledge in this respect, and may offer our American brethren our congratulations on their discoveries in a field which, seeing that most of the islands belong to the colonial possessions of Great Britain, ought to have been occupied by us long ago. At the same time, English naturalists have done something towards the investigation of the Antillean avifauna since I wrote my article in 1871. With the kind assistance of the Rev. J. E. Semper, I have been able to give some account of the birds of St. Lucia‡; and Mr. Lister's exertions§ have recently added something to our knowledge of the birds of St. Vincent. An examination of the collection made by the last-named gentleman, now in the Museum of the University of Cambridge, and of some of Mr. Ober's

* See Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1878 and 1879.

† See 'Nature,' vol. iv. p. 473 (1871).

‡ See P. Z. S. 1871, p. 263, and 1872, p. 647.

§ See his notes, *antea*, p. 38.

duplicates, which Mr. Lawrence has kindly aided me to acquire, has enabled me to make the few notes which I here subjoin.

1. *CINCLOCERTHIA RUFICAUDA* (Gould).

Cinclocerthia ruficauda, Sel. et Salv. Ex. Orn. p. 19, t. x.

Mr. Lister's skin of this form from St. Vincent does not quite agree with the one in my collection, from which the figure in 'Exotic Ornithology' was taken, nor with others obtained by Mr. Ober in Dominica.

The St.-Vincent bird is darker above, especially on the head, and of a more greyish tinge below, especially on the throat and breast. The bill is .2 inch longer.

The Dominica form comes nearer in colour to that figured in 'Exotic Ornithology,' but the bill is rather shorter even than in the form of St. Vincent, and the tail (in both examples) is considerably shorter.

It is certainly a very singular fact in distribution that the birds of this genus in Dominica and St. Vincent should be *more* nearly alike than that of the intermediate island of St. Lucia, where the very easily distinguished form, *C. macro-rhyncha*, nobis*, occurs.

Future writers, who have a better series, may think it necessary to separate the St.-Vincent and Dominica birds specifically; but it will be a difficult question to decide which is the true *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*, the locality of the original specimen being unknown, and the type not to be found!

2. *MARGAROPS HERMINIERI* (Lafr.).

Margarops herminieri, Lawr. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. i. p. 52 (Dominica), p. 187 (St. Vincent), p. 351 (Martinique), p. 452 (Guadeloupe).

My skins of this form from St. Lucia, obtained by Mr. Semper (P. Z. S. 1874, p. 268), are so different from those of Dominica (*Ober*), that I think it necessary to separate the St.-Lucian bird as a distinct species. Lafresnaye's type of his *Turdus herminieri* (Rev. Zool. 1844, p. 167) was from Guadeloupe. As Mr. Lawrence says nothing on the

* Ex. Orn. p. 21, pl. xi.

subject, we may assume that the same form is repeated in Martinique, St. Vincent, and Dominica. The form of St. Lucia may be described as follows :—

3. *MARGAROPS SANCTÆ-LUCIÆ*, sp. nov.

Suprà cineraceo-brunneus unicolor ; capitis et ceryicis lateribus dorso concoloribus ; gutture pallidè fulvo, brunneo striato ; pectore et ventris lateribus brunneo squamatis, plumis medialiter albis, indè brunneo submarginatis ; ventre medio et crisso purè albis ; axillaribus et subalaribus albis brunneo striatis ; remigum et rectricum paginâ inferiore cineraceâ ; rostro et pedibus flavis : long. tota 10·0, alæ 5·5, caudæ 4·0, tarsi 1·7.

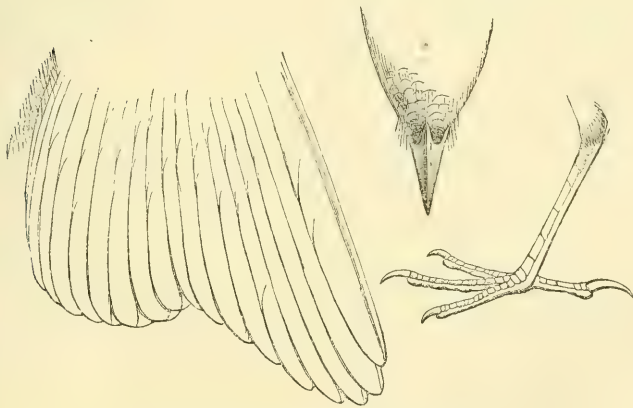
Hab. Ins. Sanctæ Luciæ Antillarum (*Semper*).

Mus. P. L. S.

Obs. Diversa a *M. herminieri* colore dorsi dilutiore, maculis nigris pectoris nullis, necnon alis et caudâ longioribus.

4. *CATHAROPEZA BISHOPI*. (Plate I.)

Leucopeza bishopi, Lawr. Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sc. i. p. 151, et Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. i. p. 189.



Wing, bill, and foot of *Catharopeza*.

Mr. Lister's collection contains examples of the bird described by Mr. Lawrence as *Leucopeza bishopi*, which I have examined with great interest. Mr. Lawrence has referred

this peculiar species to the genus *Leucopeza*, which I established (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 14) on a bird discovered in St. Lucia by Mr. Semper. But I do not think it possible to refer these two forms to the same genus; and I therefore propose the name *Catharopeza* (καθαρός, *clarus*, et πέζα, *pes*) for Mr. Lawrence's bird. *Catharopeza* differs from *Leucopeza* in its shorter and broader bill, the slight bristles on the rictus, the shorter tail, and rather shorter and stouter tarsi.

Mr. Lister obtained examples of this species in both the plumages described by Mr. Lawrence, and, curiously enough, marks the white-gorgeted bird as a female and the brown-throated one as a male. But I have little doubt that Mr. Ober (as quoted by Mr. Lawrence) is correct in his statement that the *adults* of both sexes are similar in plumage, and that the brown specimen is a young male.

The plumage of *Catharopeza* is quite peculiar among the Mniotiltidæ; but I agree with Mr. Lawrence that it must be referred to this family.

The figures (Plate I.) are taken from Mr. Lister's specimens, and represent, according to the views expressed above, an adult female (the male being similar) and a young male in the background.

5. MYIARCHUS OBERI.

Myiarchus oberi, Lawrence, Ann. N.Y. Ac. Sc. i. p. 48.

I have examples of this species from Dominica, received direct from Mr. Ober, and kindly obtained for me through Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Taylor's specimen from Dominica, and the skins of Mr. Semper from St. Lucia (*M. erythrocerus*, mihi, P. Z. S. 1871, p. 271) belong to the same species. In my opinion therefore *M. oberi* = *M. erythrocerus*, concerning which species cf. Ridgway, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. i. p. 138.

6. CYPSELOIDES NIGER (Gm.).

Cypseloides niger, ScL. P. Z. S. 1865, p. 615.

Mr. Lister's specimen of this species agrees well with Jamaican examples in my collection. Mr. Ober does not appear to have noticed this bird, as it is not included in Mr. Lawrence's catalogue.

7. *CHÆTURA DOMINICANA*.

Chætura dominicana, Lawr. Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sc. i. p. 255.

Chætura poliura, Lawr. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. i. p. 62.

Mr. Lawrence was quite right in separating this species from *C. poliura* (vide P. Z. S. 1870, p. 329). But although Buffon's figure (Pl. Enl. 544. fig. 1) is very bad, I should have been inclined to refer the Dominican *Chætura* (mainly from the locality) to the "*Hirondelle de la Martinique*," and to call it *Chætura acuta* (Gm.).

V.—*Ornithological Letters from the Pacific*. No. I.

By OTTO FINSCH, Ph.D.

Honolulu, July 28, 1879.

AFTER eight days' stay in Washington, where I spent a pleasant time with Professor Baird and other old friends in the Smithsonian, and saw the foundations of the new grand Museum-building, we went straight through to the Pacific coast, and reached San Francisco on the 31st of May. The members of the California Academy of Sciences most cordially welcomed me. The Academy unfortunately cannot yet dispose of the liberal gift of Mr. Lick (I believe 600,000 dollars), and therefore has still its head quarters in the old church. Their collections are very limited, and cannot be compared with those in Woodward's Garden, which have been amassed by the zeal of Mr. Gruber, now keeper of the Museum there. Woodward's Garden, although intended more for pleasure and amusement than pure science, is certainly a most interesting institution, and just what San Francisco and America generally require. Mr. Gruber has carried out an idea which I had long ago in my mind, and which Mr. Wallace portrayed in the drawings of his work on the distribution of animals. This is a representation of the chief types of the different zoological centres of the globe by giving good illustrations of the fauna of the different parts of the earth in stuffed specimens, in accordance with the peculiar flora. This very instructive invention, which Mr. Gruber calls a "*Zoographicon*"

